

NFDC celebrates National Maritime Day 2026 in collaboration with The Ocean Film Festival of India

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National Film Development Corporation (NFDC) celebrated National Maritime Day 2026 by collaborating with The Ocean Film Festival of India (TOFFOI) 2026. The fourth edition of the festival was held on April 5, 2026, at the Veermata Jijabai Bhosale Botanical Udyan and Zoo in Mumbai.

The inauguration was graced by eminent personalities, including Head Programming, NFDC, Ms. Gouri Nair; Festival Director and Founder, Ecolfolks, Mr. Paresh Pimpale; Marine Ecologist, Dr. Deepak Apte; Founder, Aqua Sailing, Ms. Zia Hajeebhoy; along with ocean conservation enthusiasts, senior representatives, and zoo management officials. NFDC presented the acclaimed opening film "Deepastambh" and also curated a special masterclass for thalassophiles.

A standout moment of the festival was the NFDC-curated masterclass titled "Marine Biodiversity: Life Under Water." The session was conducted by Marine Ecologist and Green Oscar recipient, Dr. Deepak Apte, who was felicitated by Head Programming, Masterclasses and Domestic Film Festivals, NFDC, Ms. Gouri Nair, on behalf of NFDC.

Drawing from over four decades of experience, Dr. Apte captivated the audience with insights into his diving expeditions across regions such as Lakshadweep and the Andaman Islands, while showcasing the hidden beauty of life beneath the sea. During the session, he shared strategies and techniques for underwater photography to highlight the vibrant yet fragile world of coral reefs and the looming threat of extinction facing various species.

He stressed the urgent need to engage the younger generation in coastal observation and conservation awareness rather than purely recreational activities. He further emphasised the vast areas of marine life that remain unexplored and highlighted the critical impact of climate change on these fragile ecosystems. The event concluded with an interactive Q&A session, sparking insightful discussions that continued among attendees even after the session.

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